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The Irish Blacksmith

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The Irish Blacksmith.

Romantic Irish Drama of the typical kind such as has delighted amusement lovers for generations, is the plot of this film feature, and a monumental success has been achieved in staging and producing it. Costumes correct to the most minute detail, scenery marvelously faithful to the locality in which the dramatic events take place, and a strong, carefully drilled dramatic cast has set this production apart by itself as one of the strongest and most interesting of subjects, while photographically and in other points of technique it marks a new departure in the Moving Picture art.

The pretty sister of our Blacksmith Hera is first seen out on some simple errand; she is met by a gentleman on horseback who attracted by her good looks enters into conversation with the girl, and finally forces a kiss from her in spite of her remonstrances. The poor girl, indignant at this treatment, makes her escape as quickly as possible and hastens to explain to her brother the insult that has been put upon her by this unknown "gentleman."

The forge in the mountains gives an opportunity for an unsurpassed piece of motion photography, where the Blacksmith is seen engaged in shoeing a horse; his sister enters and imparts her story much to the indignation of the sturdy son of Vulcan, who vows vengeance on the perpetrator of the outrage when he catches him. The story is hardly told when the girl's persecutor rides into the forge to have his horse shod, and is immediately recognized by her, and promptly knocked down and punished by her enraged brother.

The gentleman villain goes off swearing to be avenged for the blow, and the scene changes to a cave in the mountains, where illicit whiskey is manufactured and a choice collection of ruffians are drinking and enjoying themselves after their own fashion. Our gentlemanly "he'er do well" enters and knowing well the character of the men explains the revenge he wishes on the Blacksmith, and gives them money to carry out his purpose, which they readily undertake to do. The details of the plot are arranged, and no time is lost in carrying it into execution. The contraband possession of firearms was at this time a hanging offense in Ireland, and the villainous scheme concocted is to conceal a number of guns in the blacksmith forge and accuse him of having placed them there. The plot is quickly carried out and information laid before the nearest military officer, who at once issues his warrant for a thorough search of the forge.

Again the Blacksmith is seen in his forge while his mother and sister sit and watch him at his work. A company of soldiers enter and accuse him of concealing weapons, which he indignantly denies. The informer, however, shows them a cunningly contrived receptacle under the forge, and on search being made the guns (which he had assisted to place there) are found, and the unfortunate man is arrested and led away to prison.

But one result can follow the trial of our hero under such circumstances. Falsely accused, he is found guilty and sentenced to death. Once more in the prison he is placed in the condemned cell and closely guarded. His mother and sister, however, obtain leave to visit him, and the quick-witted girl suggests a means of escape that seems feasible. A disguise is procured, and one of the soldiers, in love with the girl, manages to be placed on sentry duty over the prisoner. The disguise is smuggled into the prison and with

its aid the Blacksmith makes up a dummy, which is placed on the bed while he hides underneath it. When the guard enters he slips out of the door behind them, and with the assistance of the friendly sentry, makes good his escape.

Suspecting the origin of the plot he makes his way at once to the cave where it was originally hatched, and fortunately overhears the rogues who accused him laughing over the success of their nefarious plan and revealing the details of the plot. With this information he repairs to the Judge who convicted him and succeeds in persuading him to visit the cave in his company. Here they still find the conspirators, who have been joined in the meantime by their chief, and having heard of the escape all are in anxious conference. Under fear of punishment an old hag who is in charge of the cave reveals the truth and places the guilt in the right place, the chief villain is arrested red handed, and both he and his accomplices meet the fate they have so thoroughly earned.

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